

USAID/REDSO-ESA

Annual Report

FY 2004

June 14, 2004

Please Note:

The attached RESULTS INFORMATION is from the FY 2004 Annual Report and was assembled and analyzed by the country or USAID operating unit identified on the cover page.

The Annual Report is a "pre-decisional" USAID document and does not reflect results stemming from formal USAID review(s) of this document.

Related document information can be obtained from:
USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 210
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: (301) 562-0641
Fax: (301) 588-7787
Email: docorder@dec.cdie.org
Internet: <http://www.dec.org>

Portions released on or after July 1, 2004

REDSO-ESA

Performance:

Background: East and southern Africa is comprised of some of the world's poorest nations. They are subject to repeated natural disasters and political disruptions that have led the international community to expend substantial human and financial resources on unending emergency relief efforts. Despite such efforts, these nations continue to struggle with serious food shortages and the threat of widespread famine that potentially harms an estimated vulnerable population of 30 million. Outdated policies and pervasive bureaucratic ineptitude create an environment that stifles growth of intra-regional and international trade, while conflicts and pervasive undercurrents of corruption inhibit resolution of fundamental food security issues. Finally, already overburdened public health systems unable to cope with the growing threat of resistant malaria strains, other endemic diseases and unacceptably high rates of maternal and child mortality, are being further stressed by the devastating prevalence of HIV/AIDS. These realities and an awareness that the region is fertile ground for the cultivation of terrorist activities, has renewed international and regional interest in resolving the underlying constraints to economic growth and political stability in this geopolitically important region of Africa. Notwithstanding this discouraging setting, FY 2003 witnessed some positive accomplishments. In Sudan, a security framework agreement was signed and prospects have never been better for peace and a transition to recovery and development. In Kenya, the recent democratic elections led to a peaceful governmental transition. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, violent confrontations have calmed with the presence of international peacekeeping troops. In Somalia, ongoing peace talks, facilitated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have made limited progress, while there is a strengthening civil society and a growing level of confidence in the legitimacy of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This resulted in a significant monitoring role for Somali NGOs in the Somaliland local and presidential elections. In Burundi, the government reached agreements with all but one rebel group and fighting has subsided in much of the country, while several civil society groups successfully applied conflict mitigation training and techniques in local settings with positive results. In Djibouti, the government is now actively engaged in significant new donor-funded education and health programs to improve prospects for the population. Such achievements demonstrate that peace and reconciliation are possible and that developmental efforts can achieve positive results in this troubled region of Africa.

The Regional Economic Development Services Office for East and Southern Africa (REDSO/ESA) is based in Nairobi, Kenya with USAID/Kenya, the Sudan Field Office, and USAID's regional office of Disaster Assistance (OFDA). A unique tripartite mandate governs the allocation of scarce human and financial REDSO resources. This mandate includes responsibilities for: 1) managing an innovative, cross-sectoral, regional program to enhance African regional institutional capacity to achieve food security, to better contain and prevent conflict situations, to improve the capabilities of public health systems and to reduce the devastation of the HIV/AIDS pandemic; 2) supporting, complementing and enhancing 23 USAID programs in the region by providing technical advisory and program support services, while sharing experiences and the lessons learned from ongoing regional and bilateral activities; and 3) managing the programs in Djibouti, Burundi and Somalia. (In FY 2003 REDSO also managed the Sudan program, which in November was designated as an independent USAID mission, the Sudan Field Office.) These programs are each discussed in separate Annual Reports.

U.S. Interests and Goals: REDSO promotes U.S. national interests through an innovative, multi-year strategy that is designed to implement regional activities that address fundamental trans-national developmental and organizational problems. The resolution of such constraints and issues have a direct impact upon the success or failure of USAID country-specific programs, yet their resolution is often well beyond the scope and operational capacities of traditional, bilateral USAID or other USG programs. Therefore, REDSO programs fill a critical gap, making a unique contribution to USG and international

donor economic developmental undertakings in the region.

The REDSO regional program promotes African solutions to address social, political and economic issues that are the root causes of poverty and despair throughout the region. In this manner the program expects to lessen the likelihood that the ESA region will serve as a breeding ground of recruits for organizations engaged in the conduct of terrorist activities around the world. The innovative, cross-sectoral REDSO approach shares with partners and clients the most up-to-date developmental results and appropriate technological achievements. By focusing on the expansion of regional economic cooperation and the opening of national markets to international and intra-regional trade, REDSO promotes economic growth throughout the region, while increasing opportunities for U.S. agricultural products and technologies to increase food security and decrease dependence on international humanitarian assistance. In addition, REDSO programs help strengthen public health systems throughout the region in order to lower the rate of transmission of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, while reducing the tragically high rate of mortality among women and children. Thus, successful achievement of REDSO's strategic objectives will contribute to the U.S. government's efforts to diminish the risk of economic disruption, political disintegration, impoverishment and conflict throughout this region. Finally, the cross-cutting and adaptive nature of the program guarantees that regional activities will continue to be supportive of Presidential Initiatives and Agency priorities such as: the Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) initiative, the Presidential Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), and the initiatives on basic education and the curb on corruption.

Beneficiaries: The REDSO program has both direct and indirect beneficiaries. Direct beneficiaries include key regional inter-governmental organizations, such as: the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA); IGAD; the East African Community (EAC); the African Union/International Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR); the Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS) and the Regional Center for Quality of Health Care (RCQHC). In addition, a number of regional NGOs benefit directly from REDSO support including: the Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS); the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS); the Africa Peace Forum (APF); and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA). Indirect beneficiaries include thousands of small farmers who have taken advantage of the results of the agricultural research and the development of new agriculture technologies that have been funded under REDSO activities. Also, a substantial number of small and medium-size businesses have benefited indirectly from REDSO's trade and investment activities, while conflict-reduction activities have positively impacted the lives of people throughout the region who have been devastated by ongoing conflicts, e.g., those living in border areas, those affected by past genocide campaigns, and the thousands of refugees that fled the outbreak of conflict in areas such as northern Uganda. Finally, thousands of women and children who comprise the region's most vulnerable population have benefited indirectly from REDSO's efforts to improve health systems and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Donor Relations: The European Union and the United States are the two major international donors that directly support regional institutions and activities. Other donors related to food security and health include: the World Bank, Canada, the African Development Bank, and Great Britain. Germany is a key U.S. partner in conflict prevention, and a variety of UN agencies (the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNDP) provide support for and cooperate closely with the U.S. on activities related to maternal/child health and HIV/AIDS prevention. The World Food Program and the U.S. collaborate closely in activities related to food assistance.

Challenges: The distinctive nature of the regional program generates a unique set of circumstances that REDSO has begun to address as its programs have matured. For example, performance monitoring requirements are especially challenging for USAID-supported regional activities. Not only are these new requirements to regional partners and their collaborating national entities, but organizations such as COMESA, IGAD and CRHCS often do not have direct (or even indirect) connections with national entities that achieve target results. Therefore, in a region where communications infrastructure is unreliable and inadequate, the timely acquisition of accurate data on target regional results is a significant challenge. Similarly, country-level and people-level reporting as required by Presidential Initiatives and Agency

priorities is uncharted territory for a regional program. REDSO's authority precludes the traditional in-country operational modalities that ordinarily lend themselves to such on-the-ground monitoring. In order to address this REDSO endeavors, whenever possible, to ensure that regional activities compliment bilateral USAID programs. In this manner REDSO may be able to utilize country-level and people-level data obtained by USAID missions and their partners to monitor and report on the achievement of targeted regional results. In addition, REDSO has provided specific training to strengthen performance monitoring capabilities of regional partners and, as appropriate, such programs include the provision of technical advisory services and equipment to enhance communication capabilities of partner organizations.

In FY 2003 REDSO/ESA was tasked with formulating a regional HIV/AIDS Strategy. This plan proposes a multi-sectoral approach to address the devastating impact of the pandemic in the ESA region. As such, specific health interventions envisioned under the Plan will intersect with and expand upon activities carried out under the auspices of three existing REDSO strategic objectives. Therefore, it will be essential to design such HIV/AIDS-oriented activities to allow REDSO to utilize and/or enhance the performance reporting capabilities of the partner organizations under these ongoing strategic objectives.

In addition, REDSO's tripartite mandate encourages a creative tension between the sometimes divergent operational demands of its three component parts. While REDSO staff devotes substantial time to developing, implementing and monitoring its unique regional program, it cannot ignore the high priority of managing the programs in countries such as Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia or Burundi. Nor can the increasing requests for support and service to bilateral USAID program suffer. Therefore, to ease the tension, REDSO continues to carefully review and schedule service delivery to client programs, while exploring new and innovative technologies, i.e., telecommunication and computers. Also, whenever possible, REDSO travel is utilized to serve more than any one part of the mandate, e.g. visit regional partners while providing services.

Notwithstanding the above, REDSO/ESA's overriding challenge, both in terms of program management and service provision, continues to be the tenuous regional and Kenyan security situation. In FY 2003 REDSO/ESA was subjected to an "authorized departure" of staff for nearly five months. Travel by REDSO staff to client countries such as Burundi and Somalia as well as official travel into Kenya has been severely restricted, while REDSO TDY travel to client bilateral missions was also reduced for several months. As a result of the threat in Kenya, the recruitment of qualified staff has become more difficult, and the Ambassador's limitation on the overall number of staff is a reality which cannot be ignored in program planning and implementation.

Key Achievements during this reporting period: In FY 2003 impressive progress was made under the three strategic objectives of the 2001 - 2005 strategy. A firm baseline exists to assess results achievement through the expansion of networks, the dissemination of information and lessons learned, and increased awareness of policy issues at a regional level that leads to policy change.

1. Food Security: Achievement expectations were exceeded across the board. In addition to more closely aligning REDSO's regional programs with recently established Presidential Initiatives (TRADE and IEHA), indicators and targets for this strategic objective were readjusted. An indication of achievement is an increase of 11% in the aggregate value of trade for selected commodities in the region. On the policy front, two major regional intergovernmental partners, COMESA and EAC, for the first time began to address politically charged issues related to cross-border trade. In addition, with the establishment of Anti-Corruption Committees in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda there has been a clear recognition of the need to ameliorate the negative impact of corruption with a reduction of intra-regional transportation costs.

2. Conflict Prevention: In 2003 significant progress was made in accomplishing target results. Achievements include ratification by six IGAD member states of a protocol for a Conflict Early Warning and Response (CEWARN) mechanism. As a result, CEWARN offices were established and began to function in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. Also, data collection for CEWARN was initiated in cross-border zones. Completed Conflict Vulnerability Assessments in Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided critical analysis and recommendations. Sixteen Conflict

Prevention and Mitigation training courses for parliamentarians, local government officials, civil society groups (including women's groups) were held and these new skills were used to mitigate specific conflicts. Continued progress in achieving target objectives is anticipated.

3. Health: In 2003 regional health and HIV/AIDS activities improved knowledge, management capacities and operational systems of regional African partners. For example, annual work planning was adopted by partners as a result of training for over 700 key professionals in subjects such as: hospital administration; operations research; fund raising; nutritional advocacy; HIV/AIDS worksite programs; malaria prevention and control; facilitative supervision in maternal and neonatal health; and performance improvement for antenatal care services. These same partners assumed key roles in networking activities related to: family planning and reproductive health; human resource development; tuberculosis infection prevention and control; and HIV/AIDS. In addition, state-of-the-arts information and best practices were disseminated concerning: nutritional care of HIV/AIDS patients; voluntary counseling, HIV/AIDS testing and antiretroviral medication; the prevention and control of anemia; and the counseling of mothers on infant feeding to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. Finally, regional policy dialogue promoted country-level discussions of issues such as the prevention and control of malaria in pregnancy and the care and management of tuberculosis patients.

Gender: The Regional Gender Impact Assessment of 2002 identified gender constraints to achieve REDSO's strategic objectives, and the process of systematically applying a gender approach to design and implement regional activities was initiated. As a result, REDSO programs emphasize, to all partners, the utility of gender mainstreaming and the development of gender-oriented policies aimed at eliminating gender inequities. For example, the COMESA Gender Policy has now evolved to the implementation stage of an Action Plan. Similarly, three of REDSO's major health sector partners now routinely identify and focus on the gender implications of activities they manage. CAFS, the most gender-accomplished of these, serves as a model for regional partners and provides leadership in developing gender-focused activities. In the Somali zone, the CEWARN employed some of REDSO's best-practices to significantly increase the participation of women in the formal District Peace and Development Committees. In addition, four IGAD workshops stimulated linkages between the Women's Peace Initiatives and the early conflict warning strategies used at the local and regional levels. Creating an enabling environment for women's participation in regional and international trade has been particularly challenging but is now beginning to reap results as evidenced in the California Gift Show and Accessories Gift Show in New York where 11 companies from the region participated, with visibility for the African craft sector in which women-owned businesses dominated.

Trade Capacity: Regional program trade activities are implemented through the Eastern and Central Africa Trade Competitiveness (ECA) Hub in collaboration with COMESA and a range of U.S. agencies. Activities focus on promotion of the World Trade Organization and COMESA Free Trade Agreements, promotion of AGOA, improving transit efficiencies in the Northern Corridor, and improving regional customs systems. As a result, Kenyan garment and textile manufacturers realized a 9% export increase in the U.S. The ECA and TRADE Hub's activities resulted in anti-corruption committees being established in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda which will reduce the costs of intraregional transportation. Further, the five Northern Corridor countries have agreed to be the fast-track pilot for COMESA's introduction of the regional customs bond guarantee program, while Rwanda and Burundi will join COMESA's Free Trade Area (FTA) in January 2004. Training in trade in services was well received and more is requested.

Country Close and Graduation:

Results Framework

623-001 Effective Program and Technical Support to ESA Missions

623-002 Increased Utilization of Critical Information by USAID and Other Decision-makers in the Region

623-003 Establish a strong basis for implementation of the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative (GHAI)

623-005 Enhanced African Capacity to Achieve Regional Food Security

SO Level Indicator(s):

Number of formal partnerships to achieve food security objectives

Number of policy changes adopted by regional inter-governmental organizations

Percentage increase of trade in commodities selected to benefit smallholders

5.1 Regional Organizations Strengthened

5.2 Improved Regional Availability of Technologies and Practices

5.3 Networking and Cooperation Increased

5.4 Improved Policy Environment Advocated by African Partners

5.5 Investment Alliances Fostered

623-006 More Effective Management of Conflict by African Organizations

SO Level Indicator(s):

Greater frequency/coverage of efforts to manage conflict in the 3 target conflict zones

Mitigation of some factors driving conflict in the region

Number of situation reports produced by IGAD warning of a risk of conflict

6.1 More Effective Management of Conflict by African Organizations

6.2 Capacity of African-Owned Conflict Management Organizations Strengthened

6.3 Expanded Application of Effective Approaches in Managing Conflict

623-007 Enhanced Regional Capacity to Improve Health Systems

SO Level Indicator(s):

Number of partner or network strategies meeting minimum standards

Results of institutional leadership survey

7.1.1 Institutional viability rating

7.2.1 Number of people trained in technical skill areas according to a prescribed curriculum and learning objectives

7.3.1 Number of times better practices are operationalized

7.4.1 Policy issues advocated for at the country level

623-XXX Regional Impact of HIV/AIDS Reduced